

Here We Are

Nightingales – Summer 1st 2026



Dear Parents/Carers of Nightingales,

I hope that you have all enjoyed the Easter Holiday.

This term's learning:

Our topic this term, 'Here We Are' is a predominantly geography-based topic where we will be learning about our local area, in particular, Hanningfield Reservoir. We will learn about its history, what its purpose is and its impact on both people and wildlife.' Please see topic overview for more details. To 'hook' the children into the topic, we will make a model reservoir this week.

Home Learning:

Topic work may be presented during our Homework Celebration on Fridays. Feedback will be given verbally as each child presents his/her homework.



- ❖ Spelling will be taught daily. Children are expected to practise these spellings at home via the 'Spelling Shed' website.



Children should continue to practise their 2-, 5-, 10- and 3-times tables regularly using Times Tables Rockstars.



- ❖ Children will also be set a Math and GPS nugget to complete each week.

Reading:

- ❖ Reading diaries are to be brought into school every day.
- ❖ Please read with you child at least **20 minutes** per day. Children read daily to an adult during RWI sessions in school. Please use the week to re-read the book, asking questions about what happens in the story, favourite pictures and why etc. Re-reading the same books helps children with fluency and their understanding of the text.
- ❖ Your child will bring different sorts of books home from school. Some books may be story/picture books from our book corner that the children enjoy listening to for you to share. Other books will be the storybooks that are a part of the RWI program. They will also bring home a levelled book with sounds and words they know – a decodable book – so **they should be able to read the words.**

General:

- ❖ A gentle reminder about **book bags**, our cloakroom **cannot** to accommodate **backpacks**.
- ❖ Children do not need to bring in stationery, everything they need will be available within the classroom.
- ❖ Our **PE** days this term are **Wednesday and Thursday** – please ensure children have the correct kit and footwear. (However, sometimes there are changes to the timetable so PE kits need to be in school all the time).
- ❖ No jewellery is to be worn for PE lessons
- ❖ Children may wear a watch and a pair of small silver/gold stud earrings for school – no bracelets
- ❖ No makeup (including tinted lip balm and nail varnish) is to be worn
- ❖ Hair is to be tied up (with an appropriate coloured and sized hairband) at all times during the school day.
- ❖ Your child should bring in a snack to enjoy during morning break. This may include: a piece of fruit or vegetable, plain crackers, hummus, unprocessed cheese or plain rice cakes. A copy of the school snack policy can be found on the school website.
- ❖ Your child will also need a named bottle filled with water every day. This will be kept in a tray at the back of the classroom. They will be able to access and refill their water bottle throughout the day.

- ❖ A reminder that the children will be dismissed from the classroom at the end of the school day. If you know that someone different will be collecting your child, please inform the school office who will get the message to us.

Should you have any questions, please feel free to write a note in your child's reading diary, send an email via the school office (office@downham-ceap.essex.sch.uk) or catch me at the end of the day once all the children have been collected.

Kind regards,

Mrs Bennett